The Long Island FISHERMAN

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SEPTEMBER 21st, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 38 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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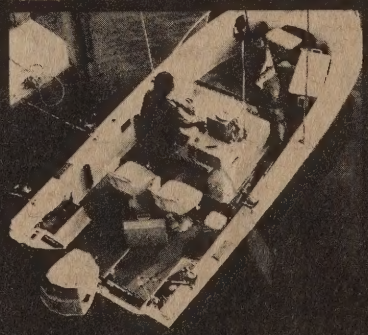

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 38 SEPTEMBER 21, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

JIGGING BLUEFISH

About the Cover—

Bucktails with free-swinging hooks produce more action in the tidal currents flowing under a bridge. See the article "BRIDGEWORK" by Tim Coleman on page 12.

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge St., P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963. Telephone: (516) 725-4200. Second Class Postage is paid at Sag Harbor, N.Y. $.50 cents per copy, back issues $.65 per copy. *Subscriptions:* One-Year, 50 Issues—$11; Two-Years, 100 Issues—$19; Three-Years, 150 Issues—$27. Photographs and written contributions must be accompanied by a written request and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All consideration will be given these requests; however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both the old and the new addresses. Please allow two weeks for the address change to be made.

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★ EDITORIAL ★

GOV. CAREY RESPONDS TO L.I.F. EDITORIAL

ED's. NOTE: We are printing below, verbatim, the text of Gov. Carey's response to our Editorial of 8/17/78 concerning his re-appointment of Nancy Goell. We think that the letter speaks for itself, but would like to point out that it does not refute, nor even deny, any of the Editorial's allegations—but in fact confirms them.

Governor Carey has asked me to respond to your editorial of August 17, 1978.

We must confess to being somewhat taken aback when we received a copy of your editorial of August 17 headlined **Governor Carey Lied About Nominees**. Eye-catching, perhaps, but creating a false impression.

Through the Federal statutes which created the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Constitution of the State of New York, the Governor is responsible for nominating candidates for appointment to the Council. In this, as in most cases, the Governor draws on a number of sources for such nominations; but his principal resource is the Appointments Officer to the Governor, Judith Hope. Ms. Hope, too, has resources. From them, she selected six people to be submitted as nominee Obligatory members of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and a second list also containing the names of six nominees to serve only as At-Large members. While Nancy Goell's name appeared only on the list of obligatory nominees, that of Scott Simons was submitted on both lists, and in both cases in the number two position.

On the At-Large member listing of nominees, the name of William R. Pell appears first. On the listing of Obligatory member nominees, that of Nancy K. Goell is first. The reason for this is that both people were currently serving on the Council (both having been appointed in August, 1976 by then Secretary of Commerce Elliot Richardson) and in a communication to Governor Carey dated March 30, 1978, it clearly states on the second page, **"Any individual whose term is expiring may be renominated."** A copy of the full text of the letter has been submitted to Mr. Simons along with this reply.

Mr. Simons' name was submitted in nomination for either position largely because of the overwhelming demand we received from his readers.

The Commerce Department expressed satisfaction with Ms. Goell's participation on the Council. Mr. Pell was one of the two At-Large members from New York State on the Board with Dr. John McHugh. We might add that these are two out of a total of only six at-large seats on the entire Council.

Ms. Goell's renomination as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Managment Council is fully in keeping with the provisions of the FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976, as defined by Terry L. Leitzell, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. This defines "qualified individuals" as "Persons knowledgeable of or experienced in the management, conservation, or recreational or commercial harvesting of the fishery resources of the geographic area concerned."

Ms. Goell has a very strong background in the protection of the environment, one of the areas listed in the law as a qualification. The Commerce Department officials also indicated to us that they did not want the nominees to be only white, male sport fishermen; that they were also looking for women with other applicable credentials, which Ms. Goell has. That Nancy Goell is an acquaintance of Judith Hope we will not deny. Ms. Hope worked on several projects with Nancy Goell when Ms. Hope was Town Supervisor of East Hampton and was impressed with Ms. Goell's professionalism and her dedication to preserving a clean marine environment. This past acquaintance should not, in our opinion, have disqualified Ms. Goell as a nominee.

The two lists of nominees were submitted to the Commerce Department with the names listed in order of preference as requested. In this case, the preference was based on the fact that the two leading nominees were already members of the Council. However, the name of Scott Simons was considered important enough to appear as a second choice on both lists.

As to the question of alphabetical listing: when Mr. Simons inquired about the list during a phone call some months ago, he was read the names in alphabetical order. But, if he was told that's the way the list of nominees was submitted to the Commerce Department, that information was incorrect. The correct information is that in the two **actual** lists of names submitted to the Commerce Department, his name was second in **preference** on both lists. There was never a "secret" list.

We do not apologize for the manner in which we have selected the nominees, nor for the people nominated. The Commerce Department will attest that the methods were correct, and the persons named eminently qualified. **DAVID MURRAY, *Press Secretary to the Governor***

BOATING

Registration for a Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Course will be held from 8PM to 10PM on September 26 at BOCES School, 375 Locust Ave., Oakdale.

The lessons provide a comprehensive but practical study covering seamanship aids to navigation, piloting, rules of the road, safe motorboat operation and accident prevention. Those successfully completing the course are awarded the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Basic Small Boat Seamanship Certificate by the Commander of Flotilla 13. For more information, call 567-6152.

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Wednesdays, 8PM to 10PM, beginning October 18; Room 232, Lawrence Sr. High School. Registration Wed. and Thurs., October 4 and 5, 8PM, Lawrence St. High School, Reilly Road, Cedarhurst, N.Y. Late registration at first class on October 18.

CLUB NEWS

FARRAGUT STRIPER CLUB

The Farragut Striper Club held its annual Junior Angler Snapper Derby on Sunday, August 27, 1978 at the Captree Fishing Piers.

The results were as follows:

Largest fish: 1st—Lisa Scamacca; 2nd—John Gorla, Jr., and 3rd—Steven Scamacca.

Most fish: 1st—Paul Scamacca; 2nd—Lisa Scamacca, and 3rd—Steven Scamacca.

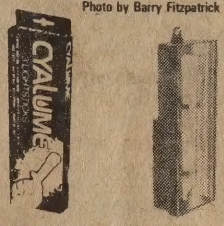
MERRICK ROD & GUN CLUB

On the evening of September 9, the Merrick Rod and Gun Club held its annual bluefishing trip. Captain Ed Carlson's "Norseman" out of Freeport was chartered and over 200 fish were caught by 26 members and guests. Club member Henry Heuser of Massapequa, caught the pool fish, a 10 lb. 4 oz. blue. President Paul Kimbely of Wantagh was high hook with 24 fish.

SWORDFISH!

Capt. Charlie Kluck of "Catch 22" Miami, Fla., uses Cyalume Lite-Lures—which caught this 221-lb. broadbill swordfish!

Photo by Barry Fitzpatrick



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Contests & Tournaments

L.I. SPORTFISHING FLUKE CHAMPIONSHIP

First a thank you for the write-up on the L.I. Sportfishing Championship for fluke.

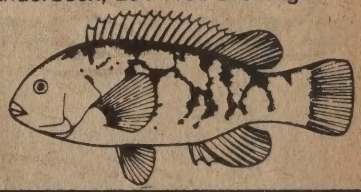
This contest is different in that no one club runs the show. All participating clubs place a member on the contest board and all money collected is returned in prizes.

The contest was held August 26 and 27 and the results were as follows: Club trophy to the Atlantic Anglers of Massapequa for the three heaviest fish total weight.

1st: East Bay Anglers—William Blitz.
2nd: Atlantic Anglers—Elaine Magistro.
3rd: East Bay Anglers—Geo. Landis.
4th: Amity Harbor Fishing Club—Tom Mulligan.
5th: Hudson Anglers—Fred Von Brook.
6th: Squadron Anglers—Art Greenspan.

The Long Island Sportfishing Club will hold a flounder contest October 28 and 29. Cost is $25 per club. Area will be Smith Point Bridge to Rockaway Inlet. Prizes: Club trophy for three heaviest fish total weight. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, individual, more depending on the number of clubs entered. All money collected will be returned in prizes.

For more information, please call: Sid Lupo, 427-8400 days, and George Vanderbeek, 234-1152 evenings.



Pass It On...

ORGANIZATIONS SOUGHT

Environmental, conservation, nature, wildlife and related organizations are being sought for inclusion in the 3rd annual Long Island Environmental Directory.

The directory is being coordinated by the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island, Inc., (MECLI) and forms necessary for listing groups may be obtained by writing to MECLI, P.O.Box 55, Seaford, L.I., 11783 or calling 516-SU 5-3139 evenings.

The new directory will be available to the public about January 1st, at a donation cost of $1.

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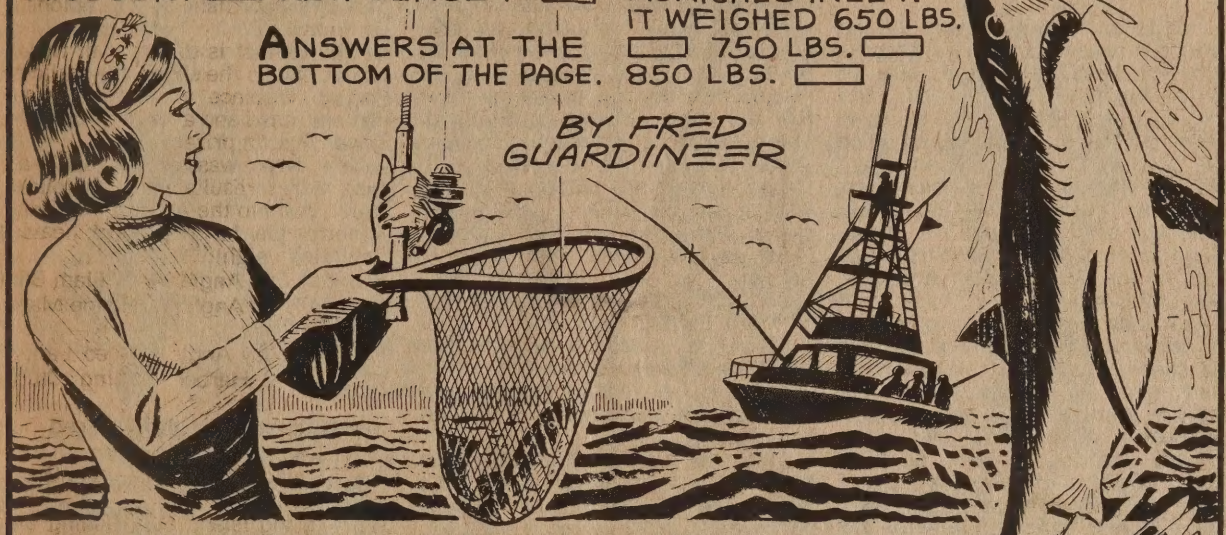
THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) THE FISHING LICENSE WAS FIRST PROPOSED IN 1917 AND LADIES FISHED FREE UNTIL 1940 IN WHAT STATE ? NEW YORK ☐ MISSOURI ☐ NEW JERSEY ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

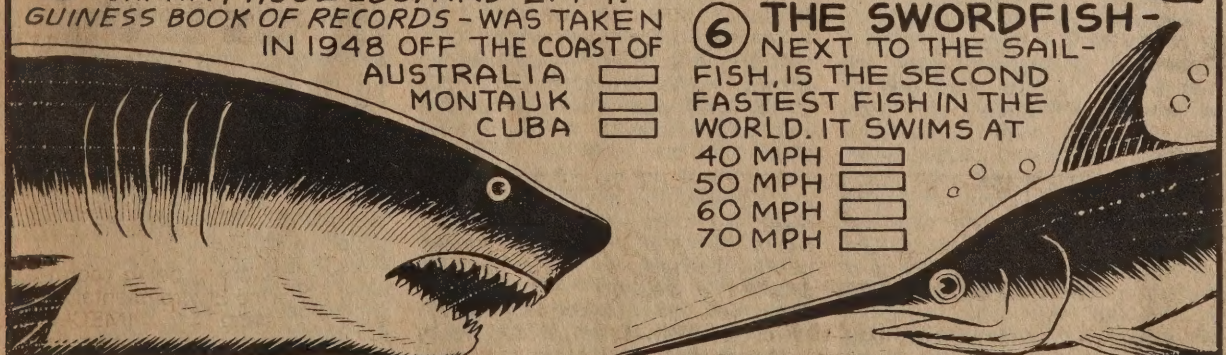
(2) THE LARGEST MAKO SHARK CAUGHT ON ROD AND REEL OUT OF LONG ISLAND - LAST YEAR, WAS TAKEN OUT OF MORICHES INLET. IT WEIGHED 650 LBS. ☐ 750 LBS. ☐ 850 LBS. ☐



(3) ALMOST 88% OF THIS COUNTRY'S ESTIMATED 8,720,000 BOATS ARE OUTBOARD BOATS. HOW MANY OUTBOARD-POWERED BOATS ARE NOW IN OPERATION?

(4) SEA GULLS ARE ONLY FOUND ALONG THE SEA COAST AND NEVER FAR FROM RIVERS AND LAKES.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(5) THE WORLD RECORD GREAT WHITE SHARK, 7,302 LBS. AND 21 FT. - *GUINESS BOOK OF RECORDS* - WAS TAKEN IN 1948 OFF THE COAST OF

AUSTRALIA ☐
MONTAUK ☐
CUBA ☐

(6) THE SWORDFISH - NEXT TO THE SAILFISH, IS THE SECOND FASTEST FISH IN THE WORLD. IT SWIMS AT

40 MPH ☐
50 MPH ☐
60 MPH ☐
70 MPH ☐

1 - MISSOURI. 2 - 750 LBS. BY BY EUGENE KOWASKI. 3 - 7,700,000. 4 - FALSE. INLAND GULLS ARE "FARMERS' FRIENDS" EATING WORMS, MICE & GRASSHOPPERS WHICH INJURE FARM CROPS. 5 - CUBA. 6 - 60 MPH.

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

American League of Anglers Powerful Voice for Sportsmen in Washington

Things haven't been easy for the American League of Anglers since its formation several years ago. After an initial burst of enthusiasm, the League found it difficult to raise funds. Indeed, the Washington office was barely able to stay open. Now, with an infusion of fresh blood last year, the League is making a big comeback and providing the representation in Washington that is so vital to the interests of American sport fishermen.

ALA was formed by a group of sportsmen from across the country for the specific purpose of lobbying in Washington (and, hopefully, in State Capitals eventually) on issues affecting fishing in any way. While the primary organizers, such as Otto Teller (California), Gardner Grant (New York), and the late Dave Scoll (New York), were primarily fly fishermen, other interests were brought in at the formative sessions. Ray Scott, President of B.A.S.S., represented warm water fisheries, and as Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save America's Marine Resources, I was one of those primarily interested in saltwater issues. The idea was valid, and is even more so today. However, we soon found that trying to raise funds for lobbying (that were not tax exempt to the contributor) was a difficult task. In addition, there was a great deal of undercover opposition from traditional fishing organizations that felt threatened by ALA's fund raising activities, even though most of those groups were represented on the Board of Directors.

Despite the best efforts of the Directors and Chairman of the Board Curt Gowdy, ALA struggled for several years and wasn't able to completely fulfill its responsibilities in Washington. Then, last year, the "new blood" in New York (led by Executive Vice President Ned Morgens and his wife Linda, our Secretary, plus Directors Steve Sloan, Ernie Alson, Dwight Lee, and Francis Pandolfi) along with original driving forces Mike Migel and Gardner Grant, staged an auction in the City that brought in the first big surge of funding in quite sometime. This helped to put the Washington office back on its feet and led to a great deal of renewed interest in the whole project.

Due to the success of the first auction, there will be two held this year. The first will be November 1 at the Explorers Club, 46 East 70th Street, NYC; while the other will take place the next night in San Francisco. The hope is that the two auctions will raise something in the neighborhood of $50,000-$100,000. As was the case with last year's auction, several outstanding fishing trips will be offered. Among the trips last year was a $3,000 five-day trip for two people to fish the chalk streams of England. There was also a five-day trip to Deep Water Cay in the Bahamas with famous anglers and outdoor writer Al McClane as the guide. If you missed one of those, you still had a shot at three days at Tropic Star Lodge in Panama; two and three-day trips aboard Steve Sloan's "Nan-Sea" out of Palm Beach; and lots of other guided trips. In addition, a great deal of fishing art was auctioned off, along with loads of fishing tackle and accessories (canoes, outboard motors, cameras, etc.).

This year's affair should be even bigger. We expect to have much more tackle, and a great variety of trips. However, in order to reach our goal, much more is required. If you have anything to contribute, it would certainly serve a good purpose. Antique tackle is particularly sought after at such auctions and can raise very good money for ALA. One of the biggest items last year was an ancient FinNor donated by Atlantic Beach sportsman Fred Hill. Contributions can be made to the tax exempt ALA Foundation, and should be directed to Steve Sloan, Auction Chairman, ALA, 38th Floor, 885 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Even if you can't make the auction, you'll still have the opportunity to participate in the big raffle. Most of the tackle and even some of the best trips are raffled off. All prizes are valued at $50 or more, the same as the price of a raffle ticket. As soon as more info is in on the raffle, I'll provide information on where to order tickets.

For more information about ALA, drop a line to the office at 810 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Individual memberships are $10, and practically all the money goes into the lobbying effort. A newsletter is put out several times a year to keep the membership up-to-date and urge action on various issues. The 200-Mile Limit finally passed because we were able to secure the support of the inland angler who will probably never fish in the ocean. It's just that sort of alliance that ALA seeks to develop.

Otto Teller, who kept the League afloat during the worst times with personal loans, is currently President. Co-Chairmen of the Board are Curt Gowdy and Nat Reed, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Among the well-known directors (in addition to those previously mentioned) are Captain Howard Bogan, Brielle, N.J.; Dr. Frank Carlton, National Coalition for Marine Conservation; Keith Gardner, Editor, "Fishing World"; Ed Hanson, Executive Director, Outdoor Writers' Association of America; Dick Kotis, President, American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association; Jack Lorenz, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America; Michael Owen, President, Trout Unlimited; Mike O'Neill, Publisher, "Field & Stream"; Mark Sosin, Past President, Outdoor Writers' Association of America; Don Zahner, Editor and Publisher, "Fly Fisherman"; and Dave Zwick, Clean Water Action Project.

Squid and Butterfish FMP's Important to Anglers

As noted in the last column, Long Islanders will get their opportunity to express opinions relative to the mackerel, squid and butterfish fishery management plans at a hearing in the Holiday Inn, Route 347, Centereach, on the night of September 28. The hearing will start at 7 PM. While most attention will be focused on the mackerel plan, anglers should be equally concerned about squid and butterfish, as these species are important forage fish—not to speak of their value as bait!

There are two species of squid in our waters. The Loligo is also known as long-finned squid, winter squid, common squid and bone squid. Though ranging from Nova Scotia to the Gulf of Mexico, the major concentrations of Loligo are found from Georges Bank to Cape Hatteras. This is the species we encounter frequently while shark fishing offshore. At times they can be so abundant that it's impossible to keep a dead bait in the water. During the winter Loligo concentrate along the outer edge of the Continental Shelf and are very vulnerable to trawling operations. Like other squid, it is short-lived—perhaps fourteen to twenty-four months.

The Illex, short-finned, or summer squid prefers colder water and is found from Greenland to Florida. Major concentrations occur between Nova Scotia and New Jersey. Illex tend to move north in the summer, and come right into shore in Newfoundland. They are even shorter-lived than Loligo, with a life span of twelve to sixteen months. Between May and October, they increase in weight by six to eight times. This resource is shared with Canada, creating a complication at this point of broken-off fishing relationships between our countries.

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Both species of squid appear to be in good shape and the FMP doesn't make many significant changes from the present PMP. The 1979 optimum yield for Illex is set at 30,000 metric tons, with 10,000 tons for American commercial fishermen and 20,000 tons for foreigners. In the case of Loligo, the optimum yield is 44,000 metric tons divided up 14,000 U.S. and 30,000 foreign. The MSY for Illex is actually 40,000 metric tons, but since the data is not that reliable, the Council felt it was safer to work with a 30,000 metric ton optimum yield. Though these species are short-lived and will be wasted if not harvested, overfishing could have adverse effects on a range of important predators, including bluefish, tuna, and sharks. You might question why the foreign fleets are allocated so much more than the U.S.? Actually, the U.S. allocations are far more than we've traditionally caught. The Council is trying to encourage the domestic fishery to take advantage of the high-priced overseas market for these species. Once American fishermen are capable of taking the entire catch, it will be theirs!

The butterfish is another small, but important forage fish. The maximum sustainable yield for butterfish is estimated at 21,635 metric tons, but the optimum yield is only 10,000 tons. Though the average U.S. harvest in recent years has been less than 2,000 tons, our fishermen are allocated 6,000 tons, with the other 4,000 going to the foreign fleets. The Japanese catch butterfish in the course of their squid operations and get a high price for it in the home market.

One of the biggest problems with the squid and butterfish fisheries is the gear conflict on the edge of the Continental Shelf. That area, far offshore, is beginning to look like Times Squre. Not only are the squid and butterfish there, but also lobsters, tilefish, swordfish, tuna, etc. As a result, there is a line of fixed gear (pots and setlines), plus floating longlines, along the Shelf in the same areas where both foreign and domestic trawlers are trying to operate. The Council has a gear conflict committee working on this problem and it has turned out to be one of the knottiest we've encountered so far. Another major problem involved in these foreign fisheries is that of by-catch of important food and sport species. The catch regulations presently imposed in the PMP's have been fairly effective in cutting down the by-catch, and the FMP's proposed to continue those regs.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Terminal Tackle

The fall fishing season starts this week. Are you ready? I hope so; and I also hope you are not one fisherman who plans on mothballing his tackle until next spring's balmy days are again at hand. If you are, this is the height of foolishness, for some of the best angling of the entire year will soon be available. Certainly, next month flounder will be in the limelight, and as the water cools with each passing day, blackfish will be on tap. And don't forget, those gray days of November bring sunshine to the hearts of dedicated codfishermen. Ah! Cod! I love you with every beat of my fishing heart. Over the years you've caused frostbite and have brought tears of frustration to my eyes as a kid, but against you I hold it not, for I am hopelessly enamored. Truly, the fall season is no time for dedicated fishermen to "let George do it." But even with the easy availability of these fish, you will get nowhere if you have little or no knowledge of terminal tackle. I'm sure you will agree that it is only foolish fisherman who believes that because he starts out with a new rod and reel, those fish he seeks will just naturally gravitate to his hooks—hooks which incidentally may have been purchased without much thought as to the fish's requirements. Would that fishing were so simple. Those much sought-after fish couldn't care less about that spanking-new rod and reel. Knowledge, not fancy tackle, is what puts fish in the bucket.

But when bait is properly presented with the correct terminal tackle to do so, it is half the game. A hook is not just a hook; a sinker is not just some handy weight to hold that hook on bottom, and certainly hardware is a bit more than oddly-shaped brass wire.

Flounder, blackfish and cod will be covered in this column over the next several weeks; but for now, let's look at the components that go to make up the necessary terminal rigs to catch those fish. I suppose the best method is to take each of these fish and give you my ideas on what I believe are the best rigs to use for easier fishing. We'll take flounder first because that's the next fish waiting in the wings for just about all local sinker bouncers.

The most important part of any rig is the fishhook. To most of us this seems obvious enough, but I've known fishermen who never give their hooks more than a fleeting glance. To them, a hook is a hook. Period. These fishermen rarely achieve more than mediocre success until they realize that there is more to this thin, curved bit of tempered steel than meets the eye.

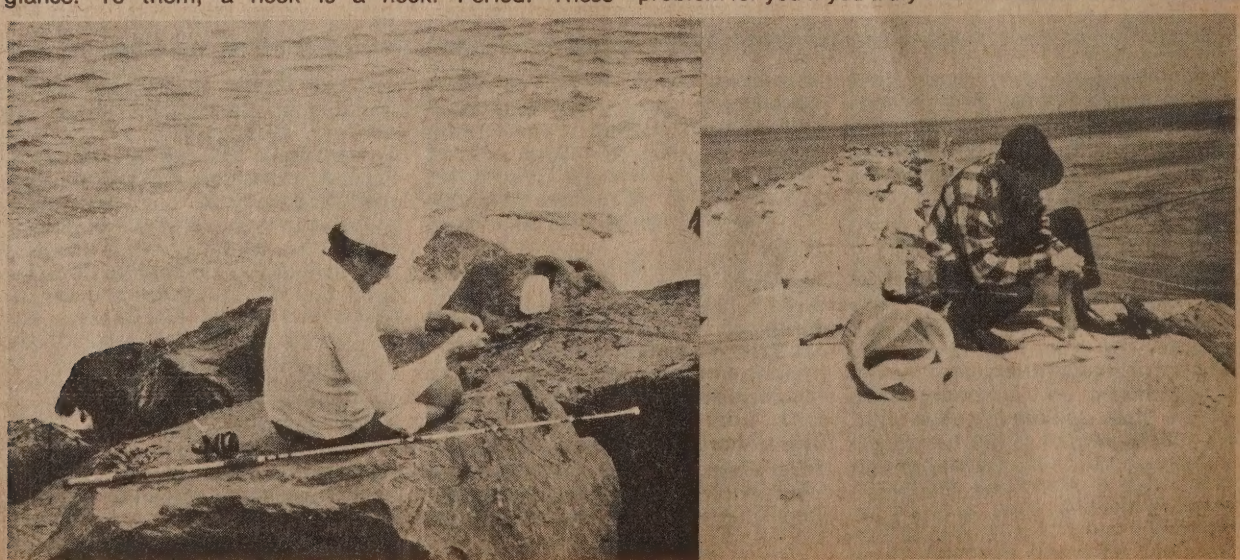
When flounder fishing, you can do without a lead sinker by using a discarded spark plug if absolutely necessary, and you can dispense with three-way swivels and the like (which personally I think you will be better off doing), but you cannot do without the hook. Nor can you take just any hook and expect the best results. To each his own certainly holds true in this instance.

Few fishermen fail to recognize a flounder hook on sight. Commercially it's known as the Chestertown, but you needn't be concerned if you forget it. Just ask the man behind the counter for flounder hooks; he'll know exactly what you mean. It is a light-wire hook, commonly long shanked, with a narrow gap and sharp, offset bend. Some tackle shops carry these hooks in regular shank, and if yours does, it is advisable to use them. I'm a great believer in light hooks for flounder—not that you won't catch fish with the regular Chestertowns. I suppose this is just one of my many fishing idiosyncrasies.

Because the flounder has a small mouth (even large ones), hook size is extremely important. I would not use any Chestertown hook for flounder that is larger than a #9, or smaller than a #10. Actually, there isn't much difference between these two, but the #9 has a heavier shank, which, while the overall difference in weight is so slight as to be negligible, does aid when removing a deeply-swallowed hook because of its stiffer wire.

But as good as the Chestertown hook is for flounder, I have not used one for many years. As I mentioned, I'm a great believer in light hooks for flounder and in place of the common Chestertown, I've opted for the #6 regular-shanked Sproat. At first glance, few fishermen will see the advantage that lies in their use. In fact, some might even let loose with a few good belly laughs. But believe it—I wouldn't con you. Over the years, I've converted many a fisherman to their use. I'm never surprised when local fishermen come pounding on my back door asking for a dozen or so, and I try always to keep a small supply on hand just for these fellows.

As with short-shank Chestertowns, these small Sproats are often difficult to find in tackle shops. Some do have them, though. If you ask for snelled freshwater trout hooks, it is likely that you will be handed #6 Sproats. To make certain, look at the package and its hook description. If, however, you can't find them locally, don't despair. Send a card to Midland Tackle Company, 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, New York 10974, and request one of their catalogs. In it you will find these hooks. There's only one hitch, though: they only come loose, 100 to the box, and you'll have to snell them with twenty pound test leader material, which is also listed. But that shouldn't be any problem for you if you truly wish to become a well-rounded



Fussy fishermen *(left)* know that a correctly tied tandem-hook rig produces flounder (right).

fisherman. (You'll save a bundle, too.)

If you send for a back copy of LIF #48, 1977, you will find illustrated info on how to snell hooks, plus how to tie the Perfection Loop so necessary for a neat, professional-looking job. Check Page Three of this issue for information on ordering back copies. Use your Chestertowns until you get the Sproats, but be prepared to see your catch increase when you begin using those smaller, lighter Sproats.

It is always best to tandem-tie a rig for flounder. Forget the use of those abominations called "flounder spreaders." They hang up on the least rough bottom and gather too much weed and debris. Flounder absolutely will not go near bait festooned with this stuff. To tandem-tie, use two hooks and fold the snell of one at its middle. Then take this fold and pass it through the knotted loop of the second hook. This hook is then run through the first fold, drawn up tightly, and secured with a common overhand knot. Be sure to finish with this simple knot. That second hook will slide down the snell of the other if you fail to do this. Place the completed rig about two inches above a suitable sinker.

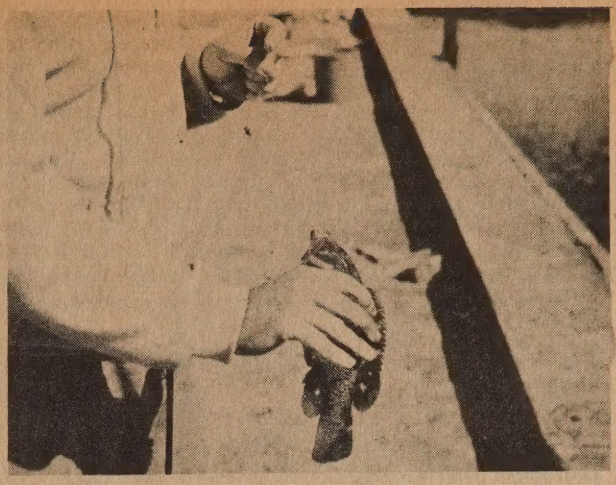
Hardware isn't strictly necessary for flounder. If you wish you can use a small three-way swivel or a "Quick-Rig" (available in tackle shops), but keep in mind the experienced bottom fisherman's adage: the less hardware, the better.

The best sinker for flounder is the common bank style. Just make sure it doesn't move off with the current, nor so heavy that you can't feel the fish putting up resistance. Flounder fishing is sport to the nth degree and you should do all you can to get the most out of it.

We'll leave flounder now and take a look at Nature's bulldog of the sea: the blackfish. These fish are a challenge for the sinker bouncer. It takes a good fisherman to consistently catch blackfish. We'll go into that in depth in a future column; but for now, let's look at the all-important terminal tackle needed.

There is only one hook to use for blackfish: the Virginia. This hook has been developed expressly for blackfishing. Its shank is heavy to withstand the struggles of this rugged fish; even a two pounder is surprisingly powerful. It has a short bite with a hollow point and offset barb. In other words, it is just what the doctor ordered for the cagey black.

Because blackfish are always caught around obstructions (the worse these are, the better the blackfishing), it is important to rig properly. For really tough places, it is best to use one hook tied in about one inch above a suitable bank sinker. You can add another hook a snell's length above the lower hook if the area isn't too sticky. (This will usually keep the pesty bergalls busy and allow a black to look over the lower bait.) On more



They also produce well with blackfish and other species.

open bottom, such as around widely-spaced boulders, you can get by with a tandem-rig as described for flounder.

Hook size depends upon where the fishing is being done. Inshore, a #8 or the slightly larger #6 will get by. These are heavy enough to hold a good-sized black; but for offshore where the average fish is larger, it is best to use a #5. Use absolutely no hardware, and be sure to carry spare hooks and sinkers.

It is not difficult to rig for codfish. The only thing to be kept in mind is that all components must be rugged. Hooks are large, hardware is stronger, and sinkers always heavy. Most fishermen use a Sproat hook about 8/0 in size (my favorite is a 5/0. More about this in a future codfishing column). As it is extremely important that the bait be allowed to remain in one place without moving off with the current, it is best to use a flat-sided sinker such as the diamond style. Bank sinkers will get by if the current isn't too strong, but as these usually only go up to eight ounces and often ten or more are required, think about having a supply of diamond sinkers in your tackle box, too.

Hardware is not absolutely necessary. The choice is yours; but make sure what you use is heavy enough to withstand the weight and struggles of a large fish. Don't lose that fish you tried so hard to get because your terminal tackle was unsuitable for the job.

This article is just a quick rundown on what you will need for those fish that will soon be knocking at the back door. It is meant to get you ready and to give a general idea of what is needed. During the next few weeks, we will go into the catching of these fish in much greater detail.

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Surf Side with Tim Coleman

BRIDGE WORK

My involvement with bridge fishing began a couple years ago. I was out one night in April talking to a fellow dunking worms for holdovers in the hot water outflow from a power plant. Eventually our conversation got around to how he'd done the year before. Good, was part of his reply which included telling me about the sixty-one pound bass he'd caught from a bridge on an eel. This particular bridge has a reputation for big fish taken by silent fishermen in the dead of a black night. However, that was the first person who took time to fill me in on where and how the fishing was done. In spite of the curiosity aroused by the conversation, bridge fishing was something I put off. The spark that got me going once again was a fellow who stopped over The Fisherman office in Sag Harbor one Sunday night in August. He was just out from the city, complete with half a load on. He was going fishing the next day, but in the meantime just couldn't resist telling me about the forty-nine pound bass he'd caught off a nearby bridge. And for what it was worth, he had a picture to prove it.

When I got home, the thoughts of big fish from bridges got the better of me. Instead of the usual round along the sand beaches that week, my partner and I put in some time out on the abutment of a bridge spanning a tidal river. The first night there we got a twenty-five pounder, plus my partner dropped a fish that ran off a lot of line, then opened up a #2 Duo-Lock snap.

As our hours on the bridge increased, we began to appreciate a spot close to home that was capable of a steady supply of point fish. The biggest fish we caught last year was thirty-three pounds which was taken by a third party who I'm sure will be back for more of the same. During the day this bridge is the scene of seemingly endless boat traffic. Come back at night and you can hear somebody sneeze a good shot up-river.

The most productive time for us to arrive at this particular bridge was right at slack water. By the time we got rigged up and out on the bridge the outgoing tide was just starting to move. All the articles I've read about bridge fishing mentioned fishing on the up-current side on the bridge into the shadow line. We found the action on the down-current side of the bridge much better.

On either side of the abutment on which we stood was a channel. As you stand facing south, the channel on our left is the one used exclusively for boats. The channel to the right was the one that had eighty percent of the fish.

As the tide began to make up, a small rip line would form a short distance down-tide. Right in around this rip is where we got our fish. Once the tide got past the first couple hours it was time to pack it in. I suspect the fish were still there, but the eel grass and other weeds got so thick you couldn't keep the lure clean.

The lures we used exclusively were bucktail jigs weighing two-and-one-quarter ounces. I'm not a big color buff; unpainted jigs will take fish just as fast as the ones with all the fancy painting. For hair we use white Fishair, a synthetic product as opposed to real bucktail. I think the difference in the water is neglible: other fishermen might disagree with that statement.

The hooks on the bucktails aren't anchored in the lead; rather we put an open eye, 8/0 Mustad around an eyelet molded in the back of the jig where the shank of a hook normally protrudes. These jigs are sold at our local tackle shop. They were originally made for jig trolling in rips. The swinging action of the hook produces more lifelike flutter to the pork rind. To get even more action out of the rind, we split it up the middle with a razor blade or knife. The best type of pork rind for this fishing is the Uncle Josh Striper and Muskie strip in white.

Early last year, myself and a couple friends had a charter with Captain John DeMaio out of Montauk. John introduced us to the correct use of diamond jigs with the method known as "heavin' and hauling." We took what we were taught and grafted the method to use at night from the bridge. We would cast out the bucktail so it hit slightly up-tide from the rip. A little free spooling put the lure right on top on the small hump forming the rip. As soon as the lure touched bottom, we would engage the reel and start a slow retrieve. If nothing happened with three turns of the handle, we'd make a second drop-back, with three more turns. If this didn't produce, we'd reel in and try again.

Like the diamond jigging at Montauk, most of our fish hit the bucktail as it was lifting off the bottom. The two-and-a-quarter ounce bucktails seemed just the right weight to help you feel bottom, even during the first and second hour of the tide. At that time, the flow is picking up strength, making feeling the lure hit the bottom more difficult than the first slow hour of the tide. It seemed like most of the fish would hit as soon as the tide started or just as it started to really roll, somewhere after the first hour—depending on time of month and the wind direction.

Once we got a fish, we had to get him up on the abutment, ten feet above the water. Fortunately, we already had a gaff made which handled the task nicely. One of our other stops is a high rock jetty. It is impossible to climb down the front of this jetty for a hooked bass without getting beat to pieces by oncoming seas. A long-handled gaff was definitely in order, but most of the ones I saw were too heavy to be wielded by a man fishing alone. The answer to this problem was to put a gaff hook at the end of a cut-down 1165 surf blank. The resulting gaff was ten feet long and light enough to be handled by an average man.

If you try bridge fishing, remember to make some arrangements beforehand for landing your fish. You can't lift a twenty-five pound fish straight up—that's for sure.

Tackle for our bridge fishing was all conventional. Reels such as the Jigmaster or Garcia 9000 are good choices. Thirty pound mono is workable, but my partner likes the idea of forty. During the waning part of September I made three trips to the bridge, where I hooked four fish and dropped every one of them. Because of that, I started fishing with thirty pound Dacron. The no-stretch feature of the Dacron will help you to hook fish, especially on the second drop-back when the lure is at a maximum distance away from you.

One of the small problems with our bridge is you can't legally fish there. The bridge tender didn't say anything, outside of asking us how we made out. Once he got to know our vehicles, he didn't even give us a second look when we drove up. A cup of coffee from a nearby restaurant didn't hurt matters any, either. Make sure he sees you coming up to see him, otherwise you're liable to scare him to death when you knock on the door of his little office.

Most of our fishing at the bridge was done in the fall. This is why the bucktails were so good. At that time there was a lot of bait in the water. Earlier in the year, say around the full moon in May, I think eels would be better.

You can rig up an eel to fish via the heave and haul method. Just take an eel and rig him with a two-way swivel coming out his mouth. There are numerous articles on how to rig an eel. Next take a bead chain trolling sinker of sufficient weight to get down to the bottom in whatever stage of the tide you feel is premium. Connect the end of the bead chain molded in the sinker to the swivel in the eel with a Duo-Lock snap. You can work this arrangement in the same was as you would a diamond jig or as we did with bucktails. It doesn't matter if the eel spins in the current; the bead chain will keep your line from twisting. There are different weights of these trolling sinkers on the market, so you can use a lighter or heavier sinker, depending on conditions.

Bridge fishing isn't the answer to all your fishing needs, especially if you want to go to the Cape on weekends. It is, however, a spot close to home where the chance for a forty is still pretty good. During the day, the place might not look so hot, but at 2 AM it is the dining hall of bass worthy of a good taxidermist.

During the day bridges are the scene of hectic boat traffic. But at night they harbor some of the biggest striped bass taken anywhere, including from a boat.

Splitting the five-inch strip of *Uncle Josh* pork rind produces a fluttering action in the current that often entices a big bass to strike the artificial lure.

EATON'S NECK — A Grand Finale

by Dick Alley

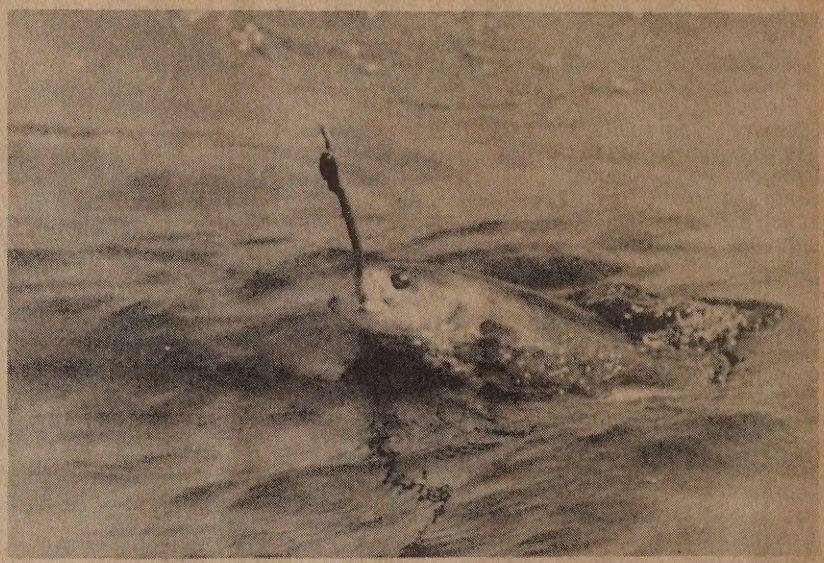
Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station is well-known among boaters and fishermen in western Long Island Sound. Every time there's a rescue, an accident, a problem on the water—personnel there respond with whatever is needed to handle it, or to work with local agencies.

Ask the average Fairfield County fisherman what Eaton's Neck means to him, however, and he'll say it in a word: BLUEFISH. For many years, Eaton's Neck has been a bluefish hotspot, and more. Past seasons have produced catches of wahoo, little tuna, false albacore, and other species that are rare enough to make the newspapers for these waters. It's a popular spot for big porgies, for blackfish, and stripers.

Eaton's Neck, also 11B to those fishermen who frequent the spot, is only a short run across for most Fairfield County anglers. Indeed, from Compo Basin in Westport, I can make it in under twenty minutes on a calm day. Norwalk anglers are a bit closer, and the run across is reasonable all the way down to Westchester.

Many years ago, an artist friend, Bob Stanley (who has since migrated to Florida), made a small scale model of the reef at Eaton's Neck. That model tells the story of why the fishing here is so fantastic. Buoy 11B sits more than two miles off the Coast Guard Station. A narrow reef extends from just inside this buoy, into shore, with water depths along its length ranging from twenty to thirty-five feet. On either side of the reef, water depth drops off sharply to depths exceeding ninety feet. A strong tidal flow occurs, trapping bait fish and, in effect, creating a feeding tank for the many predators.

Two stories come to mind whenever I think of Eaton's Neck. The first concerns a lure, aptly named the "Big Daddy" by its designer, Leo Cooper of Stamford. Leo designed and manufactures the entire Goo-Goo Eyes line, and for that fishermen everywhere offer their thanks and praises. The Big Daddy though, played a significant role the first year the big blues made an appearance in Long Island Sound. There were a few fishermen who inevitably came back with the biggest fish, day in and day out, and when the word finally leaked out, the credit went to the Big Daddy and the lure became to the "quality" of the catch what the umbrella rig was to the "quantity."



A blue hooked on a Tri-Fin Eel tries to throw the lure as he gets close to the boat.

Lori Alley and Don Joekle display a trio of Eaton's Neck blues.

While several methods have been successful at Eaton's Neck over the years, none has been quite as good as wire-line trolling; for this area is perfectly suited to trolling that hundred yards of wire. It's a matter of preference only; but I for one, troll either north or south along the edges of the reef when I go to Eaton's. My reason is explained on the charts. Trolling a hundred yards of wire, my lure travels at about a thirty foot depth. Were I to troll east/west, that lure would undoubtedly get hung up on the reef on each and every pass, at all but the cut between the reefs as shown on the chart. Here, the water drops off to thirty-five and forty feet of water. But this isn't always where the fish will be. I've found them the length of the reef on occasion. Other

days, I've gone fishless at the tip of the reef, only to find them feeding voraciously between the obstruction buoy and Can 13. A guy with a fish finder can usually locate them in minutes.

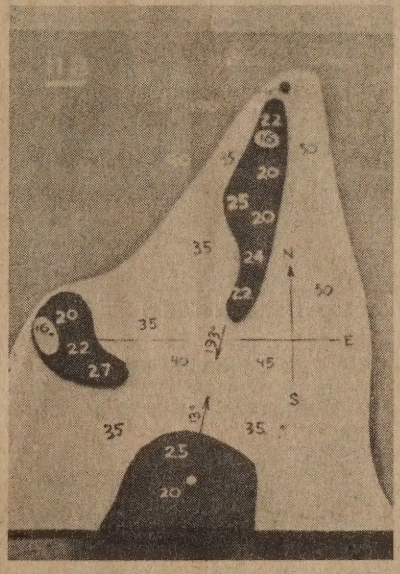
I witnessed the best example of utilizing electronics in fishing recently, when I was into the fleet of party boats fishing around Eaton's Neck. It was a day I was fishing alone, and traveled across to find the fleet packed in tight. Choosing at first to stay out of the crowds, I made a couple of passes along the edge of the reef with wire, but couldn't raise a hit, so I drew in close and rigged a one-handed spinning rod with a Tri-Fin sand eel jig. My own fish finder was in for repairs, so I used the party boat's, listening to the P/A and staying within a reasonable distance of where they were fishing. Sure nuff, the fish were moving, and the boats along with them. The skippers would move around slowly until fish showed up on the recorder. He'd stop, order lines out and within seconds, his fares would be fighting some big blues. I dropped my own jig down, and had barely lifted it off the bottom when my rod doubled and line peeled off. By the time I landed the ten pounder, the fleet had moved a couple of times more; so I headed for home, but I'd taken my first fish jigging at Eaton's Neck.

Casting to fish on the surface usually comes alive in late October and Novembe when most anglers have long since packed away their boats and tackle. Unfortunately, they miss the best fishing of the year. Bluefish normally move out by October's end, but that last couple of weeks often finds them on the surface, feeding voraciously all day long. Once the blues leave, it's striper time, and Eaton's Neck is one of the top late-fall spots.

Leo Cooper recommends trolling in the fall of the year, but in closer to shore where the big bass feed in the shallows. I've had some good fishing on the inside, casting bucktails to schools of bass under the lighthouse. The first time I did it, was the year the ultra-light craze hit our area, and we were all out to try and set some new records on small one-handed sticks using six pound test line. Ed Boland, Frank Schober, Len Orifice, Bob Stanley and I, made almost daily trips across when the weather cooperated. The baits were half ounce Upperman bucktails, and we were rewarded with plenty of school fish and an occasional trophy, too. As I remember it, Frank landed a twenty-five pound bass on ultra-light that season, followed by a nineteen pound catch by Lenny.

The biggest fish I ever saw at Eaton's Neck was a shark. Bob Stanley, Ed Boland and I were aboard Bob's sixteen foot Whaler, on a nighttime trolling expedition, when Bob hooked a bluefish. He played it in to a few feet from the boat when a boil the likes of which I'd never seen before made a pass at the blue and missed. Bob hauled back, pulled the blue across the surface, laid alongside the boat for a minute, then disappeared into the depths. That shark was as long as the boat itself. Wisely we decided that a dark night, fishing from a small boat, was not the spot to bait our first big shark, but needless to say, the animal ruined our fishing. He must have scattered those blues into the Hudson River, for no more hit that night.

Bait fishermen can be found in the deep water between 11B and the tip of the reef, and again on the inside of Can 13. Porgies and blacks are the main quarry here, and indeed, this has the reputation of being one of the hottest porgy spots around. In recent years, the bunker-dunkers have also tried this spot, and have scored well along the reef. Some very successful Conn. anglers travel across almost every night throughout the summer, just to bait the bluefish.



This model shows the configuration of the reef and surrounding water depths.

What are the disadvantages of this spot? It is popular because it catches fish, and therefore, draws large crowds—especially on weekends. There are conflicts between those who troll north/south along the edge of the reef, and those who choose to troll east/west, crossing the reef. Occasionally there's a tangled line or two, but these difficulties are usually resolved in an amiable manner. Each has their own preference for trolling his method, and that can't be changed, so why get mad about it.

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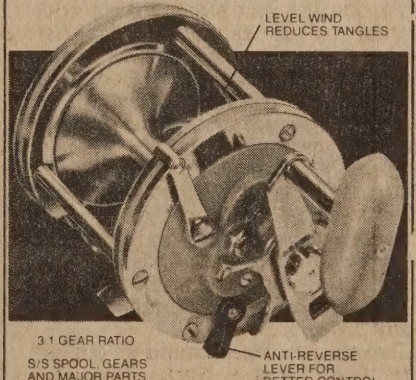

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FALL'S FIGHTING FOOLS

by Andy Regina

Autumn on Long Island Sound is the closest this old angler will probably ever get to heaven. Given my choice of one given place at one specific time, I could think of nothing that would better fill my cup of happiness than being on the Sound, and fishing in the fall. Naturally, there are a lot of other places you can argue the merits of, and personally, I'd be inclined to go along with your thinking, especially if you start spouting Montauk in October (all those huge bass), or Block Island in August (those jumbo blues), or Peconic Bay in the spring (weakfish, man, big and sassy).

Arguments pro and con can go on interminably, without any clear cut solution; each and every angler's belief is justified, and we are in no way attempting to resolve this time-worn debate; we do stand staunchly on our own preference though, and with what we believe is irrefutable evidence to back up our convictions. First of all, our autumn cornucopia is filled with a wide variety of fish; not only do we host inshore gamefish, such as striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish, any of which often attain the phenomenal weights attributed to other areas, but we are doubly blessed by having a like variety of bottom fish to add to that list. And basically, that's what catches the fancy of most western Sound fishermen-those bottom dwellers that provide most of our fun; I'm talking about the flounder, porgy, and blackfish. And of these, the blackfish is the rascal that sways our decision to stick to the Sound in the fall, for although we dearly love catching stripers and bluefish and weakfish, this pugnacious battler puts up a battle that is second to none, as he seeks to regain the sanctuary of any reef or wreck he may have been unceremoniously yanked from.

Blackfish or tautog (Tautoga onitis) are members of the wrasse family Labridae, saltwater fishes comprising about four hundred and fifty species, one of which is the bergall, or cunner. They are distinguished by their pharyngeal or "throat" teeth, a set of crushers located in the throat that is used to crush hardshelled seafood, such as oysters, crabs, mussels, clams, and barnacles. Their short stocky bodies end in a square tail and their mouths feature thick rubbery lips and squirrel-like buck teeth that are used to pry loose any barnacles that may cling to rocks or wrecks; these same chisel-like dentures do a good job of prying mussels loose, as well as oysters or other mollusks.

Sporting tough, tight-scaled skin that protects it against injury from the very rugged bottom it often feeds on, the blackfish really hug the rocks or wrecks that make up its preferred structure. Here they cruise about unconcerned about bodily harm as they dine on a natural smorgasbord, liberally provided by Ma Nature; scooping up a clam here and a crab there, or inhaling shrimp and lobster unendingly, topping the whole thing off with fresh mussels or barnacles. These hardshelled foods are passed back to the pharynegeal teeth, where they are pulverized before being ingested into the stomach, which extracts the nutrients by digestion while passing the crushed shells out the vent as waste material.

Reaching weights into the twenty pound class, blackfish in the Sound normally average about three pounds apiece, with enough fish in the ten pound class caught to make things interesting. These fish prefer cool water. Thus blackfish will inshore during the spring and fall and will spend summers and winters slightly offshore.

Adult fish are usually dull-colored, either dark grayish or greenishbrown with irregular black blotches and bars that give it a mottled appearance that also helps to blend the fish in against the background, once again as camouflage against predators.

All this talk about protection against predators is straight business too, because the blackfish is highly sought as food by a lot of gamefish, tough battlers nonwithstanding. We use baby blackfish as live bait when fishing for stripers near bridges, and we've seen a lot of big blackfish bearing the unmistakable signs of missed bluefish attacks-usually a chunk missing out of its anatomy somewhere.

Blackfish feed heavily in the fall, loading up for the winter layoff. Blacks stay in one particular area rather than traveling north or south, as so many of our gamefishes do. Although they range from Novia Scotia to North Carolina, the fish in any one given area are territorial, and stick close to home base throughout their lives.

The blackfish diet is extensive, covering a wide range of mollusks and crustaceans, and including seaworms and small baitfish. As previously stated, they are well equipped to feed on crabs of all kinds, shellfish of all kinds, including shrimp, snails, and lobster, clams, oysters, mussels, and barnacles. This gives the fisherman a large choice of baits from which to choose; of these, the steamer clam, fiddler crab, and green crab are the most widely used baits, although we firmly believe that hermit crabs are the ultimate blackie bait. Actually, lobsters are the numero uno tautog tempter (as witness the jumbo blacks

Impromptu blackfish baits rigged on the spot: a calico crab makes excellent blackfish bait.

taken regularly in lobster pots by commercial lobstermen), but who in their right mind uses them as such? As a rule we stick with fiddler crabs and green crabs, and so far we have no complaints coming.

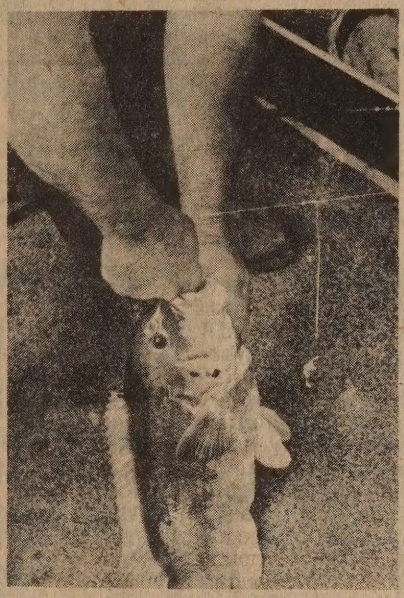
Fishing for blackfish is an art; not easily mastered, once you get the knack you can consider yourself a fisherman. Here, more than in any other type of fishing, the correct approach is mandatory, and this demanding approach starts from the very beginning-the hook. While you can get by with alternate hook choices in other fishing, and might even catch some blackfish with other hooks too, the one hook specifically created with this buck-toothed scrapper in mind is the Virginia pattern. Crafted from heavy gauge wire, and forged to stand up to tough tautog teeth, the Virginia has a short, offset barb, and a bend that reaches in back of those front teeth. This hook is so overwhelmingly popular, that should you walk into any costal tackle shop and ask for blackfish hooks, it is the one and only hook you will be given every time.

Springtime blackfish anglers get by with sizes from eight through six, but because fall-run Sound blacks usually are bigger, we prefer a larger hook, and settle for size five or four. And we like our hooks with turned-up eyes, rather than those plain, ringed jobs; the way the mono leader stands out from this type of eyed hook is great, laying in one straight line every time, when tied so that the leader runs through the hook eye. Tie those hooks in tandem too, by bending the snell of one at the halfway mark, and then slipping that through the loop-eye of the second hook; now pass the second hook completely through the bent snell of the first hook, past the loop-eye of the second hook, and draw that second hook completely through, leader and all, until it snugs up tightly against the snell of the first hook; a simple overhand knot, drawn-up tight, will keep the leaders permanently parted, and the hooks from sliding down, especially with fish on.

Although we love spinning tackle, and are ardent ultralight buffs, this is neither the time nor place for this equipment; stick with conventional tackle-a fairly stiff boat rod and conventional reel, filled with thirty pound test premium mono will do nicely. Because of the tough fighting character of the blackfish, plus the rough bottom structure encountered in seeking them, plus the strong tides or currents that you find, especially in deeper water, you will need every bit of odds in your favor to set that hook into a tough blackfish jaw, and then to haul him away from that very bottom he will immediately try to regain. Once he regains the sanctuary of some nook or cranny in a wreck or rockpile, chances are you will lose that fish and some tackle to boot.

Tie those tandem-tied hooks directly above a bank sinker heavy enough to hold bottom, bait them with fiddler crab, green crab, or clam, find appropriate blackfish structure, lower that rig to the bottom, and hold on! Sound simple enough? Well, it's not! Now, let's see why it is not as simple as it sounds.

Finding good holding structure is easy, providing you use a nautical chart of your area and can pinpoint that area accurately, either with a depth recorder, or with visual shore ranges. You'll need shore ranges in either case, recorder or not, just to get you on the exact patch you want; ranges are merely a matter of lining



A five pound blackfish. Take note of our second-hook bait, a fiddler claw mentioned in story.

up two or more fixed points to place you in the general area. Scott Simons recently had an excellent article in this regard in this publication; dig through your old copies and bone up on it-it's important. Your depth recorder will more vividly depict bottom structure, either by the flashing red light or, more vividly, by the printout from chart recorders. One word of advice here though: if that wreck or rockpile sports no barnacles, forget it-it will not attract blackfish! Chances are, though, that the patch is productive, but you still got problems.

Often, through some mystery known only to them, blackfish will inhabit one particular portion of any given reef or wreck, shying away from the major portion of that structure, and actually shouldering each other out of the way, trying to stay over that particularly-liked section. Naturally then, accurate anchoring becomes crucial, as even the near-miss of even a couple of feet will do you no good-blackfish just will not go out of their way to come to you-you must go to them. Throttle-down and glide into your approach; noise frightens blackfish, becoming magnified in shallow water more-so than at greater depths. Slide that anchor in as noiselessly as possible, and once it takes hold slip another anchor over the side, preferably from the stern, and make that fast also. Called "bridling", you will stay over one particular spot without swinging to and fro, due to wind or tide; and, if no action is forthcoming after a fair waiting period, and if you're sure you're in the right place, slacken one anchor line as you pull ahead on the second anchor, or vice-versa. Quite often the mere move one way or another of only a boat-length or two will put you right on top of prime tautog territory.

Baiting properly is crucial to successful blackfishing too; steamer clams must be impaled upon the hook by the neck, then the hook must be worked into the clam body, leaving the shell on. This shell will prove easy pickin's for any blackie, although it should first be cracked by the angler, which will allow the clam's natural juices to seep out, creating an individual chum-slick, as it were. Fiddler crabs are divested of that outsized pincer that gives that bait its unique name and distinctive appearance, and the hook is then slipped into the opening provided by the removal of the claw, and out through the carapace, until the point and barb are completely exposed. Incidentally, don't throw those big claws away, they make for super bait for jumbo blackfish; thread one claw high up the shank of one hook, and another claw on the bend of that same hook, fishing one of your hooks with only fiddler crab claws; this particular trick not only stymies pesky baitstealing bergalls, but usually entices some outsized fish to the hook.

Green crabs take a little preparation to be used properly: cut off all the claws at the joint closest to the crab body, then remove the entire carapace (top shell); now cut the crab in half or into quarters, depending on each crab's individual size, and thread that hook through the opening of one of the claws, bringing the full point and barb completely through the body, to facilitate penetration when blackfish bite.

And blackfish bites take some gettin' used to, before you get the knack down pat. As tough as it might be to do, you must not move that rig one tiny bit, once it is on bottom; to do so will only result in scaring potential hookees away; blackfish, as tough as they might be as scrappers, are notoriously shy creatures, maybe because of the way bass and blues like to eat them. This is why we stressed the quiet approach, and the silent anchoring too; now you must add line movement to your list of no-nos. Even tentative tiny bites, quite often bergalls, but all too often blackfish too, must be completely ignored; when that black takes your bait, he'll pass it back to his pharyngeal teeth, in the back of his throat, to crush it.

At this time you will feel a distinct, powerful tug; now is the time to set the hook hard, by a swift upthrust of your rod, and get that blackfish headed your way, before he can get

(Continued on page 36.)

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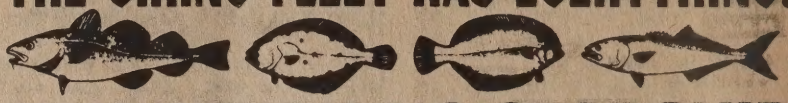

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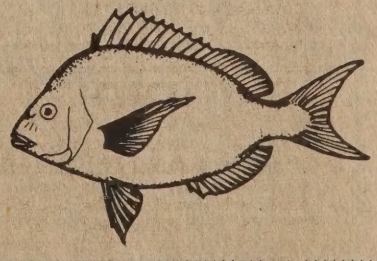

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MONTAUK ★ BEST BET ★ BLUES

The October-like weather during mid-week put somewhat of a damper on the fishing. Hottest action has been the fantastic night bluefishing at Cartwright for Montauk monsters ranging from 12-22 lbs. boats during the day have also been doing a job on the fish in the same area, using herring bait or diamond jigs. The night bass fishing during the September full moon could be considered a disaster, but only when compared with the phenomenal fishing of August. The fish weren't quite as large, but catches range from 4-12 a boat. Bass during the day are virtually non-existent. Porgy action has been good on the south side and better in the Block Island grounds where they are mixed with quite a few large sea bass. Coxes Ledge has been slow. Giant bluefin tuna seemed to have departed for parts unknown, but blue sharks over 200 lbs. have moved in to take their place. Blackfishing should be starting at Outer Shagwong momentarily.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** reported that the action at Coxes Ledge has been slow. They have been catching a few big fish, but not enough of them, so Paul said he would start fishing the local wrecks soon until the fish move into the Block Island grounds. The porgy fishing has been good, but the fish are mostly small around the Point and on the south side. Fluke action is slow, but some big doormats are still being taken in the North Rips. Night bluefishing at Cartwright has been super fantastic, with anglers catching the fish as fast as they get their herring baits to the bottom. Most fishermen have been taking 20 or more of these Montauk monsters that range from 12-22 lbs.

Al Ristori called to tell us that he had one good night eeling for bass during the full moon. On Friday night, he took 11 fish up to 38 lbs. on the last of the ebb at Great Eastern. Most of the fish were in the 20 lb. class. Ron Onorato told us that he

Thomas Brown took this 59½ cod on a recent Nantucket Wreck trip aboard the "Viking Starship" out of Montauk.

managed to take 20 bass in four nights of fishing.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that the bluefish at Cartwright are real gorillas that range up to 16 lbs., using diamond jigs during the day. He has stopped at the Point a few times to pick one or two bass, but there hasn't been too much action during the day.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** told us that it appears thta that the giant tuna have departed, but the offshore boats have been taking huge blue sharks of 200 lbs. plus. On Sunday, the "Daybreak" brought in a mako shark of about 80 lbs. and on Saturday the boat "Cutlet" took a mako of 180 lbs. Henry said that the action at Cartwright has been fantastic with boats taking between 50 and 60 giants in the 16-18 lb. class on bait and Bridgeport Diamond Jigs, which are outproducing the Ava's at the moment. Night bass fishing was slow for the most part, but the "Rosy Lady" took five bass to 38 lbs. Friday night and another boat had 5 nice bass Sunday night. Al on the "Friendship" made a nice score, with over 20 doormats he caught fishing the North Rips on Sunday. Many of the fish were 7 to 8 lbs. and a few were in the 10-12 lb. class. Henry said that the big bulldog blackfish should show up in the next week or two at Outer Shagwong.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** reports that bluefishing the early part of the week was spotty, but picked up in the latter part. They did well at the Sub Buoy, off BI, and the Cartwright. One day they're biting here, the next day another spot. No particular pattern.

Capt. Frank Maccaro of the charterboat **Free Spirit** called to say that

Terry, Ira, Jerry and David with a mess of blues, taken at the Sub Buoy on diamond jigs aboard the Montauk charter boat "Vivienne."

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Monday's trip resulted in a 120 lb. mako. Despite weather mid-week, the balance of the week's charters were profitable. Inshore trips resulted in 40-60 lb. monster bluefish at Cartwright ranging between 15-20 lbs. each.

Capt. Hoek of the charterboat **Tara** called to report excellent bass fishing. All his charters under the full moon averaged 10-15 big bass per charter. The fish are being caught both on wire and live eels. The bluefishing is still standing up at Cartwright. Capt. Hoek still has a few full moon charter dates open for October.

The Viking Skipper II reports that despite all of the past week's wind, porgies of mixed sizes have been taken in goodly numbers. Monday through Sunday saw high hooks of 50-60 porgies and better, fish ranging up to 3 lbs. Sea bass up to 5¼ lbs. were taken as were blacks to 7 lbs. A new body of porgies has moved in at the Point starting from under the guns to east of Great Eastern Buoy. Let's hope they stay.

The **Marlin IV** tells us the porgy fishing has been very good in the jumbo category, fares averaging 50-70 fish per man per day, catches from the Lighthouse and also off of Block Island. Lots of big sea bass mixed in with the porgies. Also the nightly bluefish trips are bringing in from 300-350 slammer blues from 16-18 lbs.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the **Julie III** and a party of six led by Gus decked 97 blues from 8-17 lbs. at Cartwright Sunday.

Gone Fishing Marina reports plenty of blues at Cartwright on diamond jigs. The fluke have pooped, but the bass have come in well though not like they did in August. Experienced fishermen got substantial catches on live eels in the dark and in early morning hours.

Sag Harbor sharpie Dennis Kelly stopped by the office Monday morning with 9 big stripers up to 39 lbs., which he and his buddy took at Plum Gut on live eels and chartreuse bucktail.

SOUTH FORK
★ **BEST BET** ★
BLUES

SHINNECOCK

The Capt. Clark Boats report blackfishing improving daily with fish from 3-8 lbs., using green and fiddler crabs which are available on the boat. Some porgies remain.

The Capt. Clark II reports sea bass only fair this weekend but blackfish improving on the ocean wrecks.

MORICHES BAY

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports flounder fishing is improving daily in the area of buoy 42, but fish are still on the small size and taking bloodworms. Porgies and sea bass are excellent in the hole at buoy 44 on little squid strips. Small blues up to 2 lbs., also in the deeper holes. Fluke are thinning out, but those around are all nice size fish, hitting killies and sand eels. Big snappers all over the bay and blueclaws at what is probably their peak right now.

Bill from **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** called to report Sunday Fred Mignone of East Moriches caught 42 blues all between 8 and 10 lbs. on umbrella rigs in 55' of water west of the inlet.

Larry at **L&M Marine** said that although there are only a few fluke left, the fishing has been very good in the holes between buoys 42 and 44 using bloodworms for bait, anglers are taking a mixed bag of porgies, sea bass and small flounder. On Sunday, a Mr. Cern and friends caught 23 porgies, a few sea bass and 24 blueclaw crabs at the hole by buoy 44. The flounder are plentiful but small in the holes around buoys 42 and 44.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ **BEST BET** ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

State Channel Marina East reports that they are awaiting the fall flounder invasion which should be breaking loose any day now.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reports weaks, kings, blues and lots of snappers for their skiffs. Monday through Saturday weakfish taken behind the clam dredges and the tongers on squid or Hopkins. Kings, blues and fluke all about one mile off Brown's River, a little to the east and west all on squid and sand eels. Sand eels also great on the 9 and 10 inch snappers that are around. No great quantities but good mixed bag fishing.

BAY SHORE

The Casey Lee reports fluking is still okay, with catches diminishing slightly now. Due to popular demand, Capt. Neil says that he will start flounder fishing September 21 at 7:45 a.m. sailing time, with free worms

and clam on the boat. He tells us here are also some kingfish and sea bass in the bay which should show up in the beginning flounder trips.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells of continued good fluking from Snake Hill Channel to Fl Inlet on squid and sand eels on the flood and the first of the ebb. Blacks at the Kismet Reef are a good bet on green crabs. Blowfish and porgies are also being taken on worms with the help of bunker chum. Weaks being taken behind the clam dredges at the Sore Thumb on live snapper, Jelly worms and white bucktail. Good size snappers are plentiful and all over the place. A few stripers have been chummed under the Robert Moses Bridge on bellies. Three big bass were taken on live eels at the WR Buoy west of the Lighthouse. Big blues in 70 ft. of water off Cherry Grove on chum and on umbrellas with bonito and albies also being caught. A good showing of porgies and sea bass on the outside reef.

CAPTREE

The Jib Fleet tells us that the Jib V will be starting the new blackfish season sailing 8AM daily at local wrecks with side catches of sea bass and porgies, while the Jib VI will continue fluking at 7AM daily.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reports that bluefishing is now excellent days and nights, with nights slightly better. Saturday night over 300 blues were taken fishing southeast of the offshore reef, fish 3-10 lbs. This was all on bait and chum. Sunday's day fishing was a slaughter just 3/4 miles off the beach south of Patchogue on diamond jigs and banana splits. Fish were all 8-15 lbs. Saturday's fluking was fair, 2-5 fish per person and they also hit some porgies, sea bass and blacks on the ocean reef. This coming Sunday afternoon's bluefish trip still has a few openings. See ad for details. Neil says every afternoon trip has been a

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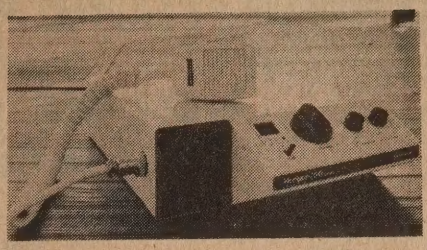

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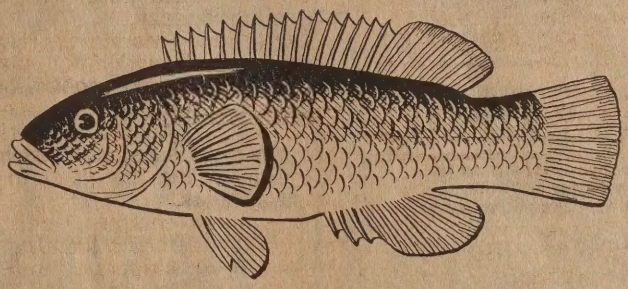

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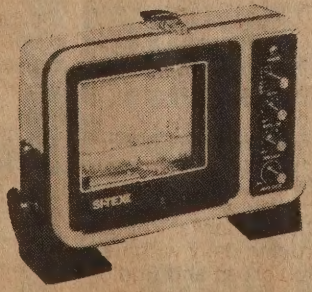

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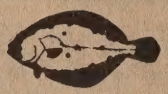

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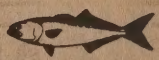

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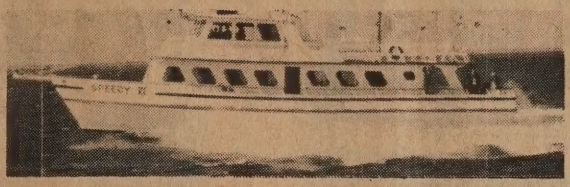

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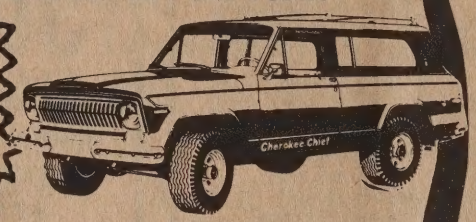

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Jeffrey Denzler, 11, of Williston Park caught this 11½ lb. doormat fluke in Fire Island aboard Capt. Richie Abrams' "Yankee I" out of Captree, on Williston Bus Company's annual fishing trip.

slaughter.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** reports fluke continues fair, though it varies from day to day, since this is the tail end of the fluke season. Catches are averaging 4-8 keepers per person, working from areas east of the Robert Moses Bridge west to the Inlet. The afternoon trips have ceased and the boat is now sailing the 7AM trips daily.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** called to say that the bluefishing has been excellent both day and night all week. The fish are all big and average between 8-12 lbs. with a few tipping the scales at 16, using diamond jigs and bananas during the day fishermen have been averaging 12-15 fish a man, with a few bonito and albacore mixed in. The Captain said that a few cod and one small pollack were taken on Saturday while bluefishing over one of his wrecks. On Sunday, the blues were found in only 70 ft. of water off Patchogue Beach. Looks like a great fall run of bluefish in the making for the south shore boats.

OAK BEACH

State Channel Marina West reports good fluking from the Moses Bridge to the mouth of the inlet on sand eels and squid, though things are tapering off a bit. Blackfishing good on the Kismet Reef, under the drawbridge in the State Channel and at the Robert Moses Bridge on fiddlers, fish up to 4 lbs. Bay porgies and kingfish at the south side of Bay Shore Channel on squid.

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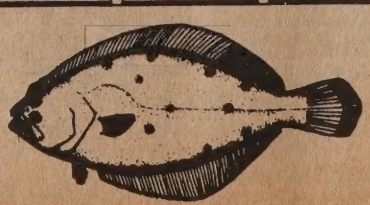

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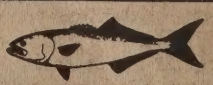

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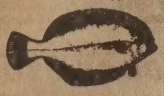

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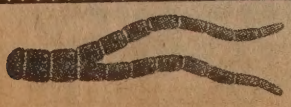

Clem Marteena of Amityville caught this 10 lb. weakfish on a line snapper off of the Fire Island light while fishing with Bait & Tackle Unlimited owner Larry.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★BEST BET★ BLACKS

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports the BTC albacore contest held yesterday was won by a 14 lb. 14 oz. albie. A lot of albacore and green bonito were taken. Some flounders are being taken in scattered areas all over the bay. Blacks on the Kismet reef on fiddlers and green crab. Fluke are still there to the tune of 4-5 keepers per person. Snapper action remains heavy on sand eel, killies or small tins. Lots of blues being chummed and trolled in 70 ft. of water. Three small stripers were chummed in the area of the construction dock and one was taken on a live eel from the beach. Yellowfin tuna of 53 lbs. was taken by Joe Carrione and a 57 lbr. by Bill Eppig in a recent tuna contest at the Canyon where they bested Freeport Tuna Club.

Babylon Fishing Station says some flounder have been caught at the Coast Guard Station and a few off the Town Dock. Flounder should increase in volume very shortly. Snappers are all over the place and taking almost anything you put in the water. Fluke are still around, catches averaging 5-7 fluke per skiff.

COPIAGUE

Bait and Tackle Unlimited reports flounder starting to show off Copiague Beach on sand worms, clam and instant worm. Porgies off Copiague Beach and at the bridges on sand worms and clams. Plenty available. Snappers on tins and spearing ranging 10-12 inches, although catches are slowing down. Weakfish by the CG Station on live snapper. Fluke very slow, although there are a few in the inlet, mainly on squid and live snapper. Blues offshore in 90 ft of water, taking chum and tinker mackerel. Last but not least—blackfish at Kismet Reef and the Wreck on fiddlers.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports a few flounder along with porgies and kingfish being taken at West Island, Copiague Hole, and Zach's Bay. Blackfishing is excellent at all the bridges, Wantagh, Captree, at the artificial reef, Sore Thumb and off the CG Dock, on green crabs or fiddlers. Some fluke at the inlet on the top of the tide, along with blues up to 3 lbs. Some weakfish at the Sore

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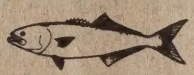

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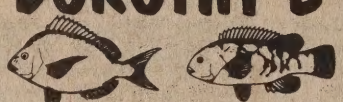

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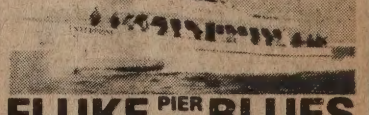

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DAILY 8:30 AM ● (212) 885-0843

First Traffic Light at Jack's Bait & Tackle

Shown are Capt. David Mahler and the crew of the charter boat "Rogue" with the 3rd place winner of the Great Gun Anglers Tournament. The 146 lb. mako took only 20 minutes to land.

Thumb on red Jelly worms and live bait. Trollers have had some weaks off the Lighthouse on purple and white tubes. A few have been trolled on the outside on the pound nets. Chumming has produced excellent catches of some blues and bonito and albacore to the southwest of Cholera. A few tuna and true albacore have been taken at the dropoff at the Mud Hole on green and yellow feathers on a 3 oz. Daisy Chain. A few bass on live eels at the old construction dock, though no giants. On Sunday, you'll find George at the Decoy Show at Babylon's Masonic Hall on Main Street from 9AM to 5PM.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports lots of blues offshore along with albies and tuna at the HA and at the Mud Hole. Porgy, sea bass and flounder on worms and clam at Massapequa Cove, Florence Beach and Ft. Neck Point. Big snappers still here from all the bridges and piers and, of course, boats. Some fluke still available at Fl and Jones Inlets on outgoing water. Weakfish at night on sand worms and snappers at the beginning of outgoing at all of the bridges.

Big Eddie at **Shore Isle Marina** tells us that Roy Allen, fishing 90' of water Sunday boated 13 bonito on red and white feathers and four tuna from 10-20 lbs. on black and white feathers, along with two 10 lb. blues. John Crowe and family fished the second Wantagh and had 24 blowfish from 8-10 inches long on sand worm and bunker chum. Three dozen blowfish were caught at the first Wantagh by Big Eddie, Jr., same way. Eddie and wife bagged 20 flounder between ½ and ¾ lbs, and another 20 mixed bag of porgies and blowfish, all on worms in the Broad Channel. Eddie says the bay is alive with fish.

BELLMORE

Joe Carter called to report a real good catch from his **Blue Max** out of Bellmore on Sat. They went out to the Hudson Canyon and caught yellowfin tuna from 60-190 lbs. and a 52 lb. bluefin tuna plus a couple of dolphin. Using rigged eels, and rigged balao and rigged squid—Rieley, the mate did the rigging. The big one took the rigged eel on an outrigger and took about two hours to get it in the boat.

Merrick Marine Tackle Center reports blues, bonito and albies being taken at the SE end of Cholera by trollers and chummers. Flounders being taken in the bay at the deep holes, though the fish are small. Plenty of snappers erupting everywhere. The fluking is pooping, but a couple might still be picked at the mouth of the inlet. Weaks at the Meadowbrook Bridge at night on worms.

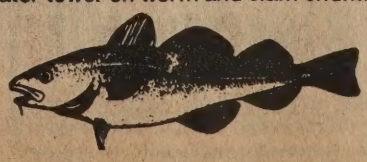
MERRICK

Dick Rubin and crew, all of East Bay Anglers on his boat, El Pescador, fished Cholera Saturday and chummed up 54 bluefish from 3-9 lbs. using three buckets of chum and his secret weapon, 5 inch tinker mackerel.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that Broad Creek has been producing small porgies and sea bass, lots of snappers and some starting catches of flounder from 3/4 to 1 lbs., on bloodworms. The Meadowbrook Bridge area around the slack is producing bay porgies and pin bass and tiny sea robins. The fluke are about gone, though Merrick Point may still be holding a couple of fish.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Marina reports porgies and flounder for the skiffs along with a few crabs fishing Middle Bay and Reynolds Channel around the water tower on worm and clam chum.



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★ LARGEST PARTY BOAT ON THE EAST COAST ★
130 Ft. Steel & Aluminum Supercruiser • Extra-Big 27 Ft. Beam
BLUEFISH! 7 A.M. DAILY ★ 6 A.M. Sat., Sun. & Hol. ★ 7 PM Every Nite
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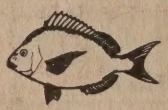

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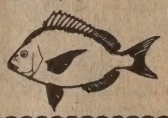

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FREEPORT

The Capt. Al reports very good luefishing all week on both day and ght trips, mainly working Cholera ith smelt and spearing baits. Bonito re mixed in and fish are running om 4-12 lbs.

Charter boat **Apus** called to report iat fishing was very rough during the eek with rainstorms and hard wind, ut still in all bluefishing continued to e overall the best. Chumming at holera and offshore trolling brought 17-65 fish per trip in the 2-9 lb. ange. Looking forward to some shark shing in the next couple of weeks as ater temperture is dropping as to ie change of weather.

Capt. Tony of the **Miss Freeport** alled to report that Saturday and unday he went out with the mate and couple of friends and got 36 flounder nd on Sunday he got two dozen ounder. Both trips produced good orgies. This was all in the local bay utside of Freeport and the local reeks. This week Tony will be going pen boat all this week, except aturday the 22. They'll be going for ounder from 7:30 - 3:00.

Tuna Joe on the **Nite Owl** called to ell us that Saturday's charter for Vic anzon boated 35 blues to 12 lbs., 3 lbies and 6 bonito. Sunday's charter or Bob Geneva totaled a catch of lues and albies, along with a 220 lb. iako.

Charter boat **The Rogue** called to ell us that Saturday's charter for Al veral of New Jersey and family nummed up blues and a lot of oggies off Cholera. Sunday's trip for udy and Neil Talisher had blues and reen bonito responding to the slick. apt. Dave says he is now booking alf day bass trolling dates and that e has a hot line on big sea bass on a ecret lump.

Capt. Walter on the **Acme II** eports that his bluefishing charters ave lived up to their usual Septem- er greatness at Cholera and to the outhard as his charters bagged up on lues 3-5 lbs., and in other areas 7-8 os. Walter says he still has some pen day and night dates.

Charter boat **Blue Fin II** called and apt Sy Karlin tells us that he has had xcellent bluefishing at the Cholera ith fish from 3-10 lbs., mostly on utters, smelts and chum.

The Capt. Lou II has been getting a ixed bag of fluke, flounders, kings, orgies, sea bass and blowfish and is ow officially switching to flounder as ie fluke has about pooped.

Capt. Joe "Tuna" Long (with hat) and a brute of a Charlie Tuna taken aboard Freeport's "Nite Owl."

Capt. Spider on the **Aloma II** reports nice catches of sea bass and porgies, sea bass up to 2½ lbs. A 6 lb. blackfish took Sunday's pool. The boat is fishing local wrecks and fares are averaging anywhere from a half to a full 5 gallon pail per man. Five bluefish were also caught on Sunday's trip. Be advised that the boat will not be running the week this issue is printed, but will resume sailing on Saturday, Sept. 23.

Capt. Richie on the **Starstream II** reports very good mixed catches of blues, albies and bonito, mainly bluefish. Weekdays are great with day and night trips equally productive and consistent, fishing between Cholera and the Eureka Wreck. Fish are running from 2-10 lbs., with 35 fish per man being common on weekday trips. The more fish in the slick, the more easily they will fall to jigs and tubes. Richie says crowds are now light during the week, so now is the ideal time to come down and load up.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports their skiffs are getting flounders at the CG Station and at the high flats

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Rick Foley and friends bagged 100 blues, 10 weaks and 2 bonito aboard Capt. Ken Breyshaw's charter boat "Jackpot" out of Freeport.

area on worms and clam. Blacks at the bridges on slack water on fiddlers. Some stripers at night at the Meadowbrook Bridge on popping plugs.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that all of the Association boats had big catches of hefty bluefish Saturday fishing Cholera. Fish ran from 7-12 lbs., with a lot of big bonito mixed in. Fares had 20-30 blues without batting an eye. One of the boats also had a 90 lb. blue shark.

POINT LOOKOUT

Scotty's Marina reports fluke are still being taken off the Long Beach hospital and Lido Golf Club. Snappers in the bay are big and plentiful. Blackfishing was off to a good start at the Meadowbrook Bridge, Rota Wreck and T Wreck. Blues from 8-21 lbs. are being trolled in 10-14 ft. of water at Nassau Beach and off the Lido Motel. Irv Grossman and Bob Craft fished this area for about an hour and came back with five blues from 10-14 lbs. The Cholera Banks have been producing tuna, bonito, albacore, skipjack and dolphin.

ISLAND PARK

Beckman's Tackle reports nice sized bluefish being taken in the bay and at Magnolia Pier. Excellent bluefishing was had at Short Beach in Jones Inlet this past weekend. These fish ran from 12-16 lbs. and were taken primarily on plugs and the rest on cut bunker. Blackfishing under the bridges is doing well on fiddler crabs. Snapper are big and plentiful in this area.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports that on Friday and Saturday of last week a blitz of big bluefish was had in side the bay. These fish ran up to 17 lbs. and were taken on bunker and chunks. Some nice fluke can still be had in the inlet at buoys 1 and 8. Sand eels and live snappers are the best bet. Sand porgies, sea bass and flounder are being taken in the area. Blackfishing is starting in rocky areas. These fish are running up to 2 lbs. and are taking fiddlers.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports that flounder up to 2 lbs. are taking worms at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Fluke fishing had dropped off in this area. Schools of bluefish can be found offshore and these fish in the 4-5 range are being taken on trolled umbrellas or bait.

JAMAICA BAY

T&G Bait and Tackle tells of plenty of bay porgies and snappers being taken on sand worms and spearing all over the Bay. Small blues being taken on bunker chunks off the North Channel bridge. Weaks off the South Channel Bridge and the Marine Parkway Bridge on sand worms and squid.

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that snappers and small porgies can be taken at both north and south channel bridges. Bluefish up to 16 lbs. are hitting whole bunkers at the Marine Parkway Bridge. Weakfish in the 6-8 lb. range are being taken at the north channel bridge and blueclaw crabbing is doing good at the bridges.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Kevin on the **Dorothy B** tells of plenty of sea bass and blacks being taken on wrecks and rocks, sea bass ranging up to 3 lbs.

Capt. Butch on the **Zephyr** reports lots of small size porgies, with a few up to 2 lbs. Most fares are filling a 5 gallon bucket with porgies. More blacks and sea bass each day as the fall fishing gets into stride.

Capt. Joe Miller on the **Atomic II** tells us that he is still bagging fluke from 2-8 lbs. at Ambrose, wtih blues smashing fluke baits occasionally. On Friday, even his female cook had 6 fluke and 25 blues. The boat's night bluefishing trips have been excellent, fish running from 3-12 lbs. The day bluefish have been from 1½ to 3 lbs.

The **Helen H** reports very good bluefishing on both day and night trips, with good solid catches being the usual course of events.

Capt. Joe of the **Blue Sea III** tells of loads of blues, bonito and albacore that he is getting. Sunday's catch was excellent with 12-25 fish per person, fish in the 3-14 lb. range. Albies are running 10-18 lbs. and bonito running 3-8 lbs. This is both bait and jig fishing.

Capt. Tommy on the **Pilot II** reports that he had two days of super excellent blackfishing while the other days of the week, the blacks were mixed with good porgy catches. The porgies are plentiful but on the small side. Trips are for both blacks and porgies, though it will be mostly blackfish soon.

Capt. Fred of the **Enterprise** reports consistent catches of night blues from 4-10 lbs.

The **Amberjack V** is having some special equipment installed in the shipyard this week, but should be back in the water by the weekend for its day and night bluefish trips with very good catches being made. Watch for the Amberjack V's cod and tile trips once they are back in the water.

Capt. Walter on the **Flamingo III** says the bonito are good and have come into their own and are now mixed in along with albies in the very healthy catches of bluefish. Typical good fall fishing. Sat. saw gorilla blues to 14 lbs. at the Farms. Ambrose Tower, Three Sisters and the Broadcast Wreck are also being worked. He's heard of a few tuna chummed this week at the Mud Hole, so look out for tuna in the chum slick.

The Traveler reports that last Thurs. night, regular Frank Albaladejo bagged a 20 lb. 4 oz. blue (which took the pool) plus 23 other blues from 8 lbs. up. Porgy action very good.

Joe at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** tells us blues, albacore and bonito at Ambrose, Klondike and 17 Fathom. Blacks and sea bass on rocks and wrecks. Fluke still holding at Ambrose, Buoy 4 and 4A. Snappers still plentiful and weakfish being trolled on umbrellas off Manhattan Beach.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that surf fishermen are taking 10-17 lb. bluefish at Clift Street, Ft. Wadsworth and South Beach. Best action can be had from outgoing to low on bunker bait, Atom swimmers or Gibbs

Don Roth of Suffolk and his party chummed and trolled over 50 nice bluefish at the Ambrose Tower aboard Capt. Arnold's "Shalidon."

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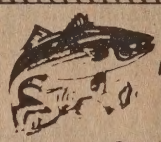

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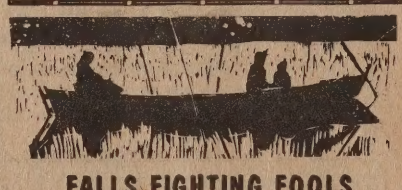

FALLS FIGHTING FOOLS

(Continued from page 17.)

back to the rocks. Any they'll fight you every inch of the way, with powerful lunges-one reason for using conventional tackle, as we said before. Here spinning gear would be too forgiving, too soft to set the hook and too limber to get that fish away from bottom.

Once you get your prize to the surface, make certain to use a net to land it, especially if the fish is fairly large; all too often, because their weight is no longer displaced by water, big blackfish break lines, or even rods if the drag is set too tightly, as they make a last second attempt to get away; when netted properly, even a green fish is easily landed.

There you have it, the main reason we say that our idea of heaven would be Long Island Sound in the fall. Come September, or October, why don't you try some blackfishing too? We're pretty certain that you will agree that blackfish are fall's fighting fools!

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SEA SERVINGS

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Fillets from 6 Flounders
1 cup flour
salt & pepper
bread crumbs
2 eggs
1 quart of peanut or sesame oil

Wash the fillets in cold water and towel dry. Roll the fillets in flour, place in beaten eggs, and then roll in bread crumbs.

Place ¼ inch of peanut or sesame oil in a cast iron or heavy aluminum skillet and heat until a drop of water sizzles. Fry the fish uncovered until crusty brown and the flesh flakes easily with a fork. It is better to fry a few pieces at a time, keeping the cooked fillets on a paper lined platter.

Serve with a side spoon of tartar sauce and a wedge of lemon.

Serves six.

swimmers. Bass are being picked up at Cliff Street, Penny Beach and Sailors' Snug Harbor. There are a lot of throwbacks and these fish have been taken on worms. Porgies and snapper blues are doing well and there is still a pick of fluke in the area. Boat fishermen are trolling bunker spoons at Norton's Point to take 10-15 lb. bluefish. The 21 Can at the VZ Bridge is producing weakfish from 6-8 lbs. on worms. Hoffman and Swinburne Islands are producing bass from throwbacks to 8 lbs. on worms. Six different schools of bluefish ranging anywhere from 1½ to 12 lbs. are being trolled on single tubes from Great Kills Park to the Old Orchard Light.

Bob Luthmann of Staten Island called to say that his second annual shark trip charter Saturday for the Administrator of Richmond Memorial Hospital resulted in two, 5 ft. brown sharks and lots of blues. The sharks were taken by Tony Succo and Ed Jensen at the Mud Hole on bunker while using bunker chum and snapper chunks. The party sailed aboard Mike Przekop's charter boat Carol out of Great Kills.

GREENPORT

Capt. George Porter of the **Brand X** was beside himself describing the super fantastic monster bluefishing he has been doing. Bruisers up to 18 lbs. have been smashing tackle to bits, with many fish coming over the rail and many fish breaking loose. It's unbelievable, says George. On Saturday's trip as the jigs were lowered, practically all rods arced over, nearly everyone into fish immediately. Double headers were common on the two hook chain rigs. George says the action is "savage," so bring heavy tackle.

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A. P. White Bait Shop reports plenty of blues being taken on bunker, jigs, and bucktails at Gardiner's Island. Porgy action slowed this past week, but catches still ran fair to good. Bass up to 40 lbs. hit bucktails and bait at Plum Island this weekend. Blackfishing along the sound shore has been good, with 5-6 lb. fish hitting fiddlers and green crabs. Snappers remain plentiful in the bay.

SOUTHOLD

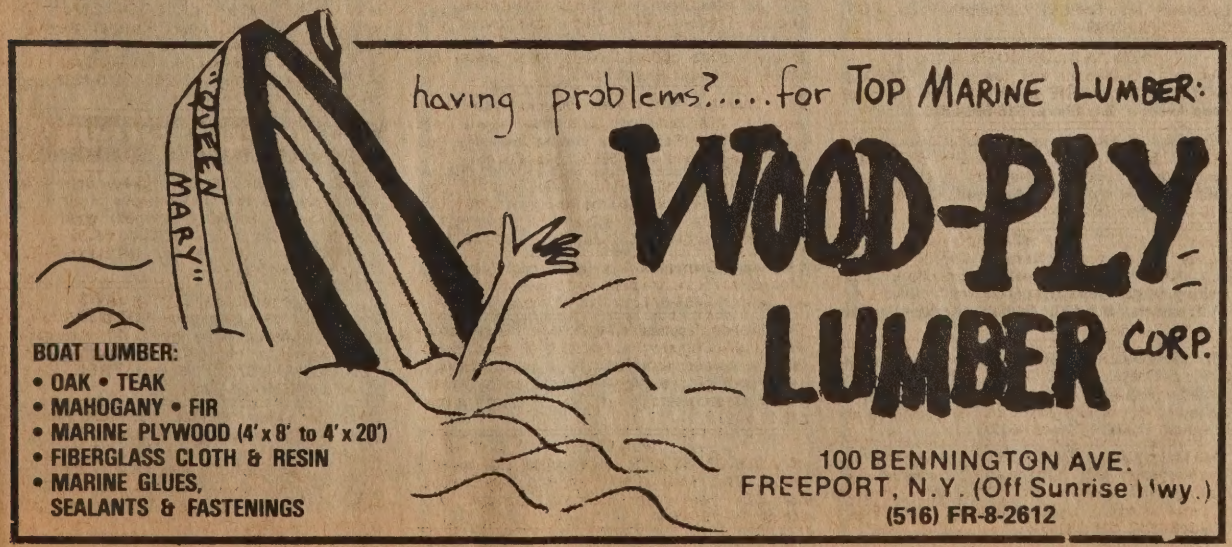
Port of Egypt reported plenty of porgies still in the bay. Flounder fishing is shaping up off Long Beach. Over the weekend boats had as high as 60 fish to 2½ pounds. The average fish is closer to one pound or less. The Sound Station reported lots of blacks with more and more of the fish better sized. Still a stray fluke or two but those were caught by accident by those porgy fishing with squid. Bluefishing is fair in the Gut and good in the Race and Pigeon Rip. Not many bass taken out off the Gut compared to other years.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that the South Race, Rose's Grove and the west side of Robin's Island was where the action was this weekend. Weakfish from 1½-3 lbs. are taking squid and worms. Porgies up to 2½ lbs. are being taken on worms and skimmer clams and kingfish from 1 to 2½ lbs. are also hitting worms and clams. Snappers are plentiful in this area.

NOYAC

Helen of **Noyac Marina** tells us that action is good one day and slow the next. Good sized porgies are still the main catch with a showing of weaks now and then. Snappers are big now. Everything should gather up steam as we go further into fall.



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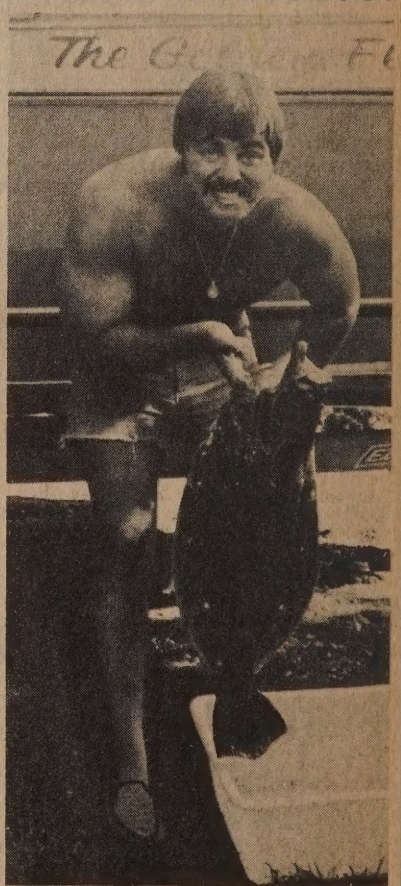

Bernie Sabatino took this fluke of 11 lbs. 15 oz. fishing Eaton's Neck on a tandem rig with smelt. Subscriber Club photo.

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PECONICS

Speck's Bait and Tackle reports weekend action on live eels for stripers at Shinnecock Inlet. One customer brought back 7 bass from 25-30 lbs. taken in Shinnecock Inlet on eels at night on a flooding tide. Two more customers brought in three stripers going from 22-31 lbs., caught at Montauk's Split Rock on sand worms. They say that one lunker was lost when he straightened out a 5/0 treble hook that same night. The shop is selling loads of eels. Porgies remain steady at Sag Harbors buoy 16 and East on sand worms. Blackfishing growing stronger off Gardiner's on both north and east sides, at the Tobacco Lot on green crabs. Snappers remain a steady item in all the back bays.

AQUEBOGUE

Warrens Tackle reported some decent blues were taken by surf fishermen last week but the guys wouldn't say where. Last Sunday night there was some bass action in the Gut with live eels. One fellow came in with five while another scored eight fish to 40 pounds. Some weaks in the bay but remember the 12 inch limit. Blackfishing is going good with fiddler a popular choice.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★

BLUEFISH

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports small blackfish being taken on fiddlers at Shoreham. Porgies can be found all along the beaches, hotspot being Oldfield Point. These fish can be taken on sand worms and clams. Bluefish action slowed this past week, but a pick of fish in the 2-6 lb. range can still be trolled on umbrellas at buoys 11 and 9. Bigger fish have been taken at the Middle Grounds. Snappers are plentiful and are big in size, they are hitting small shiny lures and spearing.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that porgies up to humpback size are taking worms and clams straight out of Mt. Sinai Harbor. Bluefishing remains good with fish up to 5 lbs. taking trolled umbrellas at Miller Place.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reported plenty of blues around over the weekend. Straford Shoals produced fish to 12 pounds on the umbrella rigs. Blackfishing is starting up again off Old Field Point. Trollers took a few school bass at Cranes Neck and Stratford Shoal on umbrella rigs.

KINGS PARK

bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that fall fishing has gotten off to a nice start in this area. Bluefish action has been good at the mouth of the river with schools of green bonito mixed in with the choppers. Sal, Paul and Sophie Bruno took three bonito and two dozen bluefish fishing here. Rose Marie Ruby and husband, Wayne took two dozen bluefish to 12½ lbs. and a striped bass of 7½ lbs. trolling bucktails at Eaton's Neck. Bass are being taken off local beaches on plugs and bucktails. Blackfish action is starting to pick up in the area and porgy fishing has been outrageous. Roger Olsen and son Ed, fished off Sunken Meadow and Callahan's on Saturday and took 200 lbs. of porgies and 7 blackfish. Steve Nemeth filled a wash tub with porgies to 2½ lbs.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say that Sat.'s bluefish run was unbelievable with blues flying aboard everywhere. It was total pandemonium. Everyone aboard went home with blues. Catches were made on Ava 27.

Four Winds Tackle reports that Mike Douglas and Bill Seltzer fished at the Obstruction Buoy aboard the Artful Dodger and took 117 blues up to 13 lbs. on diamond jigs. Plenty of other nice catches were taken over the weekend. Bass averaging 7-10 lbs. and running up into the teens are being bucktailed in the rip off Eaton's Neck. Huntington Harbor and Cold Spring Harbor have been producing bluefish from 10-15 lbs. on bunker at daybreak. Porgy fishing remains good from Target Rock to Marshall Field. These fish are hitting worms and clams. Blackfish from 1-3 lbs. made their show and can be taken on fiddlers.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

BLUEFISH

BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle reports good porgy fishing at buoy 2 in the mouth of Oyster Bay Harbor. Blackfish up to 5 lbs. are being produced on fiddlers at Oak Point and Whitewood Point. Snappers up to 1 lb. are being taken at the Seawanakee Yacht Club on sand eel lures. Bluefishing remains good at Lloyd's Neck and the early morning hours have been producing bluefish on bunker chunks in Jake's shipyard.

CITY ISLAND

Jacks Bait reported some nice butterfish taken off the dock behind the new school. No lafayettes yet. Blues from 2 to 3 pounds are around but Jack doesn't know where the bigger fish went. Last report had them up around Mamaroneck. The party boat **North Star** had three good days with weaks last week fishing in the Eatons-Oyster Bay section. School bass still at Harts Island. Snapper blues are betting bigger and bigger.

PELHAM

Al's Tackle Shop reported steady bluefishing throughout the area last week for trollers and cut bait fishermen. Snappers are bigger but not around in the quantities of a couple weeks ago. Blacks and a few flounders are showing up but nothing to plan a trip around. Porgies are plentiful but on the small side. Nothing over a pound has been caught. Plug casters are working for a few school fish each week at dawn or dusk on RedFins or Rebels.

Captain Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VII** reported fares took a mixture of small to medium blues last week and a few weaks in spite of some very fast drifts. Pete said he'll probably switch over to bottom fishing in another week or so.

RYE

Point Tackle reported the blues went wild in Mamaroneck Harbor this past Saturday evening. Plenty of bunkers around way up in the harbors with big blues under them. When the boys from the store go after spearing they come up with a lot of baby flounders, boding well for the future.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	11:50	—	12:18	12:45	12:17	12:43	1:11	1:31	3:09	3:20	3:00	3:21	11:46	—	9/21
FRI.	12:17	12:38	1:08	1:35	1:06	1:33	2:02	2:25	3:54	4:02	3:51	4:11	12:10	12:38	9/22
SAT.	1:05	1:26	2:03	2:31	1:57	2:22	3:02	3:23	4:51	5:00	4:46	5:07	1:03	1:33	9/23
SUN.	1:59	2:19	3:03	3:31	2:50	3:14	4:02	4:23	6:14	6:33	5:42	6:03	2:00	2:31	9/24
MON.	2:55	3:15	4:04	4:32	3:47	4:09	5:04	5:23	7:24	7:45	6:39	7:00	3:00	3:29	9/25
TUE.	3:55	4:14	5:04	5:30	4:46	5:06	6:03	6:16	8:23	8:42	7:34	7:54	3:57	4:25	9/26
WED.	4:55	5:12	5:58	6:17	5:44	6:02	6:50	7:03	9:15	9:32	8:24	8:43	4:52	5:15	9/27
THUR.	5:49	6:03	6:43	7:02	6:34	6:50	7:33	7:44	10:01	10:16	9:10	9:30	5:39	6:00	9/28

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/3	6:27	7:31
9/8	6:32	7:22
9/13	6:38	7:14
9/18	6:43	7:05
9/23	6:48	6:56
9/28	6:53	6:47

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/2	9/10	9/16	9/24

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	9:00	**3:15**	9:25	**3:40**
Fri.	9:55	**4:10**	10:20	**4:35**
Sat.	10:50	**5:00**	11:10	**5:25**
Sun.	11:40	**5:55**	—	**6:15**
Mon.	12:05	**6:35**	12:30	**7:00**
Tues.	—	**7:20**	1:15	**7:45**
Wed.	1:30	**8:05**	2:00	**8:25**
Thurs.	2:15	**8:45**	2:40	**9:05**